

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

### SARL NEWS SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on echolink. Echolink users can click on to ZS6FCS and they are invited to relay the bulletin on their local repeaters.

Comments from echolink users or suggestions will be appreciated. They can send an e-mail to: [zs6fcs@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs6fcs@telkomsa.net).

### SILENT KEYS

It is with regret that the Bloemfontein RAC must announce the passing of Sid Stewart, ZS4ABK, on Saturday 19 June 2004. We extend our condolences to his wife, family and friends.

Hibiscus Coast ARC regrets to announce that Ernie Andre, ZS2E/5, became Silent Key on 23 June, passing away in his sleep. He joined us early last year, after relocating from Div. 2, and was always at our meetings, together with Philys, his wife, who, unfortunately, passed away later in the year. Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends, in their bereavement.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

INTERESTING PAPERS TO BE READ AT HAMFEST

INTECNET TONIGHT WILL FOCUS ON OSCAR ECHO

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOUIS DE BRUIN ZS5LP

DIVISION 6 REPEATER WORK GROUP

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

INTERESTING PAPERS TO BE READ AT HAMFEST

The call for papers for the lecture programme to be presented as part of the SARL Hamfest on 21 August has resulted in some interesting responses. As announced last week the South African Radio League will be launching it's Radio Technology in Action programme on August 21 with a huge Hamfest at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Gauteng.

The lecture programme will focus on three streams: technology, amateur radio in action and amateur radio in education. The technology slot focuses on digital, satellite and weak signal communication. The aim of the Amateur Radio in Action stream is to showcase DXing, Contesting and general operating activity. The third stream will be a workshop on taking amateur radio to the youth of South Africa.

"We have already received some interesting synopsis for the technology stream, President of the SARL, Graham Harlett, ZS6GJH, said. We look forward to receive suggestion for the Amateur Radio in action stream." The closing date for paper proposals is at the end of June. Proposals for papers should be emailed to [rta@sarl.org.za](mailto:rta@sarl.org.za).

One of the highlights in the technology stream is a paper by Andrew Roos entitled " Digital Voice for Amateur HF Communication" covering the history, technology and the current state of the art of digital HF Communication. ( Bulletin readers please download the audio clip from [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and insert here)

#### INTECNET TO FOCUS ON OSCAR ECHO

This evening's Intecnet will feature a discussion on Oscar Echo, the amateur satellite to be launched next week. The guest speaker is Rick Hambly, W2GPS, of Amsat North America. Rick will use his Dayton PowerPoint presentation as a basis for discussion. You can download it from the new SA AMSAT website. The URL is [www.amsatsa.org.za](http://www.amsatsa.org.za).

The programme starts at 20:00 CAT and will be interactive on various repeaters around South Africa. Clubs, who have not yet ordered their link, have until noon today to do so. Send an email to [armi@sarl.org.za](mailto:armi@sarl.org.za) with the telephone number to be linked and details of the repeater to be used. Due to technical constraints cell and prepaid phones cannot be connected. Intecnet will also be active on Echolink. Click on ZS6AKV.

#### FIRST DONATIONS FOR THE 2004 IARU FUND RECEIVED

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has received the first donation for the 2004 IARU membership fund raising campaign. The Trust has undertaken to raise funds to continue the SARL's membership of the International organisation. Thanks go to Robin Seal, ZS5MRS, and Marten du Preez, ZS6ZY, for their contributions.

During last year's campaign a few donations were paid into the SARL bank account and were not included in the recognition list of the Trust. Thanks go

to the ZS5HAC Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club. They contributed R300.

Donors should direct their contribution to the IARU fund to the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust at P O Box 90438, Garsfontein 0042. The bank account number is 560 142 722 ABSA Menlyn. The branch code is 335-645. Donations sent directly to the SARL go to the general donations fund and are not credited to the IARU fund.

The Trust looks forward to your support. The IARU subscription is due before the end of July.

#### SA AMSAT LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE

SA AMSAT launched its new website this week. The first weekly feature included on the site is the Satellite Update report by Dave Long ZS5FR. This report is broadcast on Sundays in Amateur Radio Mirror International. The audio file is available from Sunday evenings. Over the next few weeks many additional features will be added. The URL is [www.amsatsa.org.za](http://www.amsatsa.org.za)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO LOUIS DE BRUIN ZS5LP

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust congratulates Louis de Bruin ZS5LP for his winning design of an audio mixer and controller. The Trust announced the competition for the design and a prototype earlier this year for a unit to facilitate SARL on the air programmes such as the President's net. The prize money is R2000 plus R3000 to build a prototype unit.

Part of the competition requirement was that the winner must supply full construction details for publication in Radio ZS.

#### DIVISION 6 REPEATER WORK GROUP

The Division 6 Repeater Workgroup are meeting on 10 July 2004 at 10:00 SAST at the National Amateur Radio Centre at the Sentech Grounds.

Clubs are requested to send delegates. The purpose of the meeting is to start the activities of the group for the coming year. Persons having outstanding applications for repeaters and so forth are invited as well.

Enquiries can be directed to Koos van der Merwe, ZS6JPY.

#### SPECIAL OFFER

Following discussions between Radio Accessories and Data Modes and the SARL, an agreement has been reached where should a radio amateur make a minimum purchase of R6 000.00 in one transaction, Radio Accessories and Data Modems will pay that radio amateur's membership fee for this year. All the information is available on the SARL web site at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). The SARL thanks Sam Ford for this initiative to help increase SARL membership.

#### HIBISCUS CLUB NEWS

The Hibiscus Amateur Radio Club recently had it's AGM, complete with a few visitors from Durban, all of 112 km away. In keeping with the KZN South Coast lifestyle, the Chairman's Report was read out, and the remainder of the formalities were soon completed, the new (?) Chairman and Committee duly elected and installed. Thereafter an enjoyable braai, (and ZS5MU Alastair's "Umzumbe Dew" of course), which went on till later.

The new committee is as follows: Chairman: Garnett Gould, ZS5ZT; Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Smith, ZS5SK; Vice Chairman and "Kids Day" convenor: Brian Walpole, ZS5BOJ; Lighthouse Weekend organizer: Gawie Hoon, ZS5R; Technical advisor and RAE courses: Wim van der Loo, ZS5XRL; CW lessons etc. and Catering: Mervyn Todd, ZS5QI; Repeater and Club equipment custodian: Brian Burger, ZS5AZH; Field Day organizer, and general member: Rob Henry, ZS5XS..

There may be some "funny" titles above, but when you consider the club's coverage from Kingsburgh to Port Edward, (ie 136 km between some committee members), things are initially informally organized, then confirmed at a later committee meeting.

KID'S DAY AT RAND AIRPORT - ON NATIONAL YOUTH DAY 16TH JUNE.

The Southern African Antique Wireless Association, together with the South African Airways Museum Soc., participated in the SARL Kid's Day from Rand Airport last Wednesday.

Despite the early cool weather, Gerald, ZS6GMJ, and Devan, ZR6DAN, were operating the station on HF and VHF respectively as from 09:00.

Thanks to good HF conditions, contacts were made on 40 metres, through to Cape Town, the Eastern Cape and the rest of the country. The only exception being ZS5 stations, which were busy with Hamnet Communications for the Comrades Marathon. Many contacts were made with kids from all over the country.

The combination of aviation and amateur radio proved to be a good formula as some 25 amateurs, family and friends supported by visiting the ZS0AWA station. They were treated to not only amateur radio, but also a number of vintage aircraft flying in and out of Rand airport. Many amateurs visited the now retired Boeing 747, the Lebombo, ZS-SAN, and were shown through the SA Airways Museum. Special guests were Graham and Natasha Hartlett, who visited, after attending the Kid's Day hosted by the Sandton club at Cresta Centre.

Thanks to all who supported the event, either by visiting or by chatting on the air, to make this a special day for our children. Given it's special appeal, further amateur radio events are being planned from the same venue.

RAE COURSE BY MAGALIES RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

The Magalies Radio Amateur Club will be presenting lectures for the next RAE every Saturday from the 7th August at their clubhouse in Waverley, Pretoria. Interested parties are invited to contact Marten du Preez, ZS6ZY, at (012) 332 2104 for more information.

#### PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that propagation conditions were average mainly due to inflow of coronal mass from the sun to the earth. Conditions were reasonable from the 25th to the 28th. There may be active periods from the 28th to the 30th June due to a relatively good sunspot number as well as corona openings on the sun's surface. Use the 20 m band early afternoon to the east and later to the north. On Friday the sunspot number was 61,2 as against 62,3 of last week. On the 20th June it peaked for a short period to nearly 140. It is expected that it will decrease during this week. It is interesting to know that the sunspot number was recorded since 1610 by Galileo. Very few sunspots were observed between 1645 and 1715, fortunately there were no DX enthusiasts then!. Real sunspot documentation was started in 1747 at the Zurich observatory.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Today at 12:00: President's net; Tonight at 20:00: Intechnet; 30 June: Book for the steam train visit to the Koster Mampoer Festival on 5 September; 2-3 July: PEARS Digital and Microwave contest; 24 July: AMSATCON2004, Durban; 7 August: Magalies Radio Amateur Club commences RAE course; 21 August: Radio Technology in Action and Hamfest at the NARC; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; Pay SARL membership, fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to [radiozs@sarl.org.za](mailto:radiozs@sarl.org.za); Visually impaired hams contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386 or email Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on [zs1ct@qsl.net](mailto:zs1ct@qsl.net) regarding receiving Radio ZS on tape. Email SARL history to [zs6p@iafrica.com](mailto:zs6p@iafrica.com).

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX